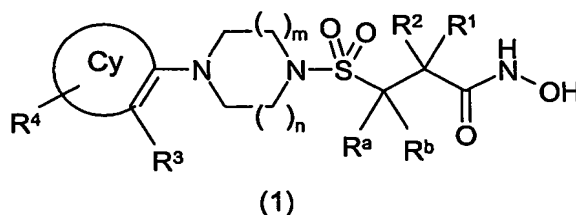


CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (1):



5 wherein:

Cy is an aryl or heteroaryl group;

m is zero or the integer 1, 2 or 3;

n is zero or the integer 1, 2 or 3; in which the sum of m and n is the integer 1, 2 or 3;

10 R¹ is a group selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocycloalkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, -C₁₋₆alkylaryl, -C₁₋₆alkylheteroaryl, -C₁₋₆alkylheterocycloalkyl or -C₁₋₆alkylC₃₋₆cycloalkyl, in which each aryl or heteroaryl group, present as or as part of the group R¹, may optionally be substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from the group R⁷, wherein each R⁷ may be the same or
 15 different, and is an atom or group selected from F, Cl, Br, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆haloalkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, C₁₋₆haloalkoxy, -CN, -CO₂R^{7a}, -CON(R^{7a})₂ or -COR^{7a}; and in which each alkyl, heterocycloalkyl or cycloalkyl group, present as or as part of the group R¹, may optionally be substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from the group R⁸, wherein each R⁸ may be the same or
 20 different, and is an atom or group selected from F, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆haloalkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, C₁₋₆haloalkoxy, =O, =NOR¹⁰, -CO₂R^{8a}, -CON(R^{8a})₂ or -COR^{8a};

R^{7a}, which may be the same or different, is each a hydrogen atom, or a C₁₋₆alkyl or C₁₋₆haloalkyl group;

25 R^{8a}, which may be the same or different, is each a hydrogen atom, or a C₁₋₆alkyl or C₁₋₆haloalkyl group;

R¹⁰ is a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₃alkyl group;

R² is a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₃alkyl group;

or R¹ and R² together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a C₃₋₆cycloalkyl or heterocycloalkyl group optionally substituted with 1, 2
 30 or 3 substituents selected from the group R⁹, wherein each R⁹ may be the

same or different, and is an atom or group selected from F, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆haloalkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, C₁₋₆haloalkoxy, =O, =NOR¹⁰, -CO₂R^{8a}, -CON(R^{8a})₂ or -COR^{8a};

R³ is an atom or group selected from F, Cl, Br, C₁₋₃alkyl, C₁₋₃haloalkyl, C₁₋₃alkoxy or C₁₋₃haloalkoxy;

R⁴ is a hydrogen, F, Cl or Br atom or a C₁₋₃alkyl, C₁₋₃haloalkyl, C₁₋₃alkoxy, C₁₋₃haloalkoxy, -CN, -SO₂R⁵, -SO₂N(R⁶)₂, -CON(R⁶)₂, -N(R⁶)₂, -NHSO₂R⁵ or -NHCOR⁵ group;

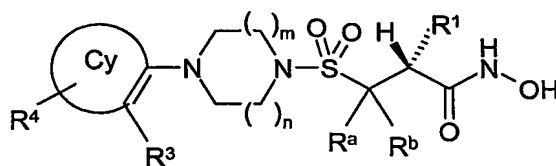
R⁵ is a C₁₋₃alkyl group;

R⁶, which may be the same or different, is each a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₃alkyl group; and

R^a and R^b, which may be the same or different, is each an atom or group selected from hydrogen or C₁₋₃alkyl, or R^a and R^b may be joined to form a C₃₋₆cycloalkyl or heterocycloalkyl group as defined for R¹ and R²;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates, tautomers, isomers or *N*-oxides thereof.

2. A compound according to Claim 1 which has the formula (2):

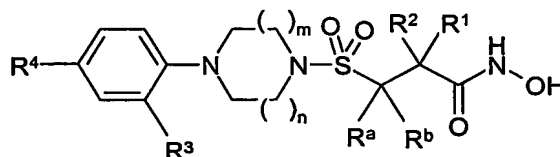


(2)

wherein m, n, Cy, R^a, R^b, R¹, R³ and R⁴ are as defined in Claim 1;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates, tautomers, isomers or *N*-oxides thereof.

3. A compound according to Claim 1 which has the formula (3):

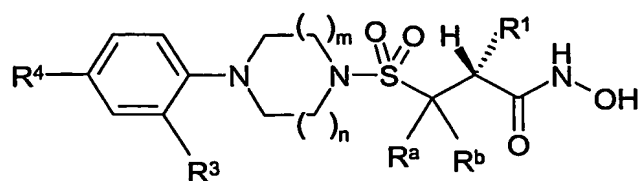


(3)

wherein m, n, R^a, R^b, R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are as defined in Claim 1;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates, tautomers, isomers or *N*-oxides thereof.

4. A compound according to Claim 3 which has the formula (4):



(4)

wherein m , n , R^a , R^b , R^1 , R^3 and R^4 are as defined in Claim 1;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates, tautomers, isomers or *N*-oxides thereof.

- 5 5. A compound according to Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein Cy is a phenyl group.
6. A compound according to any preceding Claim wherein R^a and R^b is each a hydrogen atom.
7. A compound according to any preceding Claim wherein m is the integer 1 and n is the integer 1.
- 10 8. A compound according to any preceding Claim in which R^1 is a group selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, phenyl, heteroaryl, heterocycloalkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_{1-2}$ phenyl, $-(CH_2)_{1-2}$ heteroaryl, $-(CH_2)_{1-2}$ heterocycloalkyl or $-(CH_2)_{1-2}C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, in which each phenyl or heteroaryl group, present as or as part of the group R^1 , may optionally be substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from the group R^7 , as defined in Claim 1; and in which each alkyl, heterocycloalkyl or cycloalkyl group, present as or as part of the group R^1 , may optionally be substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from the group R^8 , as defined in Claim 1.
- 15 9. A compound according to any preceding Claim in which R^1 is a group selected from optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, phenyl, heterocycloalkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl or $-(CH_2)_{1-2}$ phenyl.
- 20 10. A compound according to any one of Claims 1, 3 or 5 to 7 in which R^1 and R^2 together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from the group R^9 , as defined in Claim 1.
- 25 11. A compound according to Claim 10 in which R^1 and R^2 together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a cyclobutyl group.
12. A compound according to any preceding Claim in which R^3 is an atom or group selected from F, Cl, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, $-CF_3$, $-CF_2H$, methoxy, ethoxy, $-OCF_3$ or $-OCF_2H$.
- 30

13. A compound according to any preceding Claim in which R⁴ is an atom or group selected from hydrogen, F, Cl, methyl, -CF₃, methoxy, ethoxy, -OCF₃ or -OCF₂H.

14. A compound of any preceding Claim wherein R³ is an atom or group selected from F, Cl, methyl, ethyl or methoxy.

15. A compound according to Claim 14 wherein R³ is an atom or group selected from F, Cl, methyl or methoxy.

16. A compound according to Claim 14 wherein R³ is a methyl group.

17. A compound which is:

- 10 *N*-hydroxy-3-methyl-2-(4-*o*-tolylpiperazine-1-sulfonylmethyl)butyramide;
N-hydroxy-3-methyl-2-[4-(2-methyl-4-fluorophenyl)piperazine-1-sulfonylmethyl]butyramide;
N-hydroxy-3-methyl-2-[4-(2,4-dimethylphenyl)piperazine-1-sulfonylmethyl]-butyramide;
- 15 *N*-hydroxy-3-methyl-2-[4-(2-methyl-4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl)piperazine-1-sulfonylmethyl]butyramide;
 2-benzyl-*N*-hydroxy-3-(4-*o*-tolylpiperazine-1-sulfonyl)propionamide;
 2-benzyl-*N*-hydroxy-3-[4-(2-methyl-4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl)piperazine-1-sulfonyl]propionamide;
- 20 *N*-hydroxy-2-phenyl-3-(4-*o*-tolylpiperazine-1-sulfonyl)propionamide;
N-hydroxy-2(*R*)-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)-3-(4-*o*-tolylpiperazine-1-sulfonyl)propionamide;
N-hydroxy-3-methyl-2(*R*)-(4-*o*-tolylpiperazine-1-sulfonylmethyl)butyramide;
 1-(4-*o*-tolylpiperazine-1-sulfonylmethyl)cyclobutanecarboxylic acid
 25 hydroxyamide;
 and the salts, solvates, hydrates, tautomers, isomers or *N*-oxides thereof.
18. A compound which is:
N-hydroxy-3-methyl-2-[4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperazine-1-sulfonylmethyl]-butyramide;
- 30 *N*-hydroxy-3-methyl-2-[4-(2-chlorophenyl)piperazine-1-sulfonylmethyl]-butyramide;
 and the salts, solvates, hydrates, tautomers, isomers or *N*-oxides thereof.

19. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 18 together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients or diluents.